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THE POETICAL ACCENTS.

BY PROF. H. G. MITCHELL.

IN June 1889 I presented a brief paper on the prose accents, in which I attempted to tabulate the substance of the recent work on the same subject by Rev. William Wickes, D.D.¹ I have now, with the help of an earlier work by Dr. Wickes,² prepared tables showing how the poetical accents are used in the Hebrew Scriptures

I.

THE MAIN DICHOTOMY.

FINAL.	FIRST WORD.	SECOND WORD.	THIRD WORD.	FOURTH WORD.	FIFTH WORD.	SIXTH WORD.
—	· ^r	— (— ^r)	— (· ^p)	— (· ^p) (— ^r)	· ^r (— ^r) (— ^r)	· ^r (— ^r)
· ^r	— (parv.)	· ^r (— ^r) (parv.)	· ^r (— ^r)	—	—	
—	—	— (· ^r)	· ^r	· ^r		
· ^r	—	— (· ^r)	· ^r	· ^r		
—	— ^r (· ^p)	— ^r (· ^p)	· ^p (— ^r)	· ^p		
· ^p	— ^r (· ^p)	— ^r (· ^p)	· ^p (— ^r)	· ^p		
—	· ^p	— ^r (· ^p)				
· ^p	— ^r	— ^r	— ^r			
— (parv.)	— ^r	— ^r				

¹ See *Journal*, ix. 132-135.

² *A Treatise on the Three so-called Poetical Books of the Old Testament, Psalms, Proverbs, and Job.* Oxford, 1881.

The first shows which disjunctive is used to mark the main dichotomy in the verse (before *sillûq*) and also in each of the sections into which it may be divided.

Thus, for example, in the section closed by *athnâch*, the main dichotomy, if on the word preceding the last, is marked by *d'chî*, if in the second by *d'chî* or *r'bhîa'*, etc.³

The second table indicates which disjunctive is used to mark the minor dichotomy, i.e. the division of the clause included between the main dichotomy and the end of a given section.

II.

THE MINOR DICHOTOMY.

FINAL.	FIRST WORD.	SECOND WORD.	THIRD WORD.
—	—	— (1—2)	— (1—2)
— ⁴	— (parv.)	—	—
— ⁵	—	— (—)	—
— ⁶	—	— (—)	—
— ⁷	— ⁸	— ⁸	
— ⁹	— ⁸	— ⁸	
— ¹⁰	— ⁸	— ⁸	

The third table shows which of the conjunctives is used with each of the disjunctives, and the order in which they occur, in case there are more than one.

³ *R'bhîa'* is always the greater *r'bhîa'*, unless expressly described by *parvum*. The double accent, 'azla above and *m'huppakh* below the line, followed by *p'siq*, indicates the two forms under which *l'gharmeh* occurs, i.e. either 'azla or *m'huppakh* with *p'siq*.

III.

THE CONJUNCTIVES.

Disj.	FIRST CONJ.	SECOND CONJ.	THIRD CONJ.	FOURTH CONJ.	FIFTH CONJ.
$\overline{\text{I}}$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{J}})(\overline{\text{J}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{C}})(\overline{\text{C}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{C}})(\overline{\text{C}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{C}})(\overline{\text{J}})$	
$\overline{\text{J}}^{\text{C}}$	$\overline{\text{V}}(\overline{\text{C}})(\overline{\text{J}})$				
$\overline{\text{A}}$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{J}})(\overline{\text{J}})$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{C}})(\overline{\text{C}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{J}})(\overline{\text{J}})$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{C}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}$
$\overline{\text{C}}$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{C}})(\overline{\text{J}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{C}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}$		
$\overline{\text{C}}$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{C}})(\overline{\text{J}})$				
$\overline{\text{C}}$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{J}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{J}})$			
$\overline{\text{C}}$	$\overline{\text{J}}$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{J}})$	$\overline{\text{J}}$		
$\overline{\text{P}}$	$\overline{\text{V}}(\overline{\text{C}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{C}})$			
$\overline{\text{C}}$ (parv.)	$\overline{\text{J}}$	$\overline{\text{C}}$			
$\overline{\text{C}}$	$\overline{\text{C}}(\overline{\text{J}})(\overline{\text{J}})$	$\overline{\text{J}}$			
$\overline{\text{C}}$	$\overline{\text{J}}(\overline{\text{C}})$	$\overline{\text{C}}$			